

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/81

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJ: NPG - SUB-GROUP STUDY ON WARSAW PACT STRATEGY AND DOCTRINE

REF: (A) STATE 232172; (B) USNATO 5599

BEGIN SUMMARY: THIRD MEETING OF NPG SUB-GROUP ON WARSAW PACT STRATEGY AND DOCTRINE WAS HELD AT NATO HEADQUARTERS ON 27-28 NOVEMBER. STUDY GROUP REVIEWED INITIAL DRAFTS OF PARTS I-IV OF STUDY PREPARED BY DUTCH. DUTCH WILL PREPARE REVISED DRAFT, BASED ON COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS MADE DURING THE MEETING, WHICH THEY EXPECT TO CIRCULATE AROUND MID-DECEMBER. STUDY GROUP PREFERRED TO TAKE PART II OF STUDY (CURRENT NATO INTELLIGENCEVIEWS) DIRECTLY FROM MC 161. STUDY GROUP AGREED TO HAVE A SMALL SUB-GROUP (UK, U.S., AND FRG) PREPARE AN INITIAL DRAFT OF A CONCLUDING SECTION, OR COVERING REPORT, AND THEN CIRCULATE IT TO STUDY GROUP AS A WHOLE FOR REVIEW. END SUMMARY.

1. THIRD MEETING OF NPG SUB-GROUP ON WARSAW PACT POLITICAL
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MILITARY STRATEGY AND DOCTRINE WAS HELD AT NATO HEADQUARTERS ON 27-28 NOVEMBER. NATIONS REPRESENTED, WERE U.S., NETHERLANDS (CHAIRMAN, BGEN ROS, RNLA), DENMARK, FRG, CANADA, AND UK. MISSION REPRESENTED U.S., AND OTHER NATIONAL DELEGATIONS INCLUDED

REPRESENTATION FROM CAPITALS, INCLUDING INTELLIGENCE SPECIALISTS. OBSERVERS FROM IS, IMS, AND SHAPE WERE ALSO PRESENT.

2. MAJOR PART OF THE MEETING DEVOTED TO REVIEW OF FIRST DRAFT OF PART I-IV OF STUDY PREPARED BY DUTCH. MOST OF DISCUSSION CONSISTED OF GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS BY NATIONAL DELEGATIONS FOR USE BY DUTCH IN PREPARING REVISED DRAFT OF PARTS I-IV, RATHER THAN DETAILED AND SPECIFIC REVISIONS TO TEXT. U.S. REP DREW ON GUIDANCE PROVIDED IN REF (A) AS APPROPRIATE IN CONTRIBUTING TO DISCUSSION. DUTCH PLAN TO CIRCULATE REVISED DRAFT OF PARTS I-IV AROUND MID-DECEMBER. COMMENT: IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION PRIOR TO MEETING, UK REP SAID HIS AUTHORITIES FOUND DUTCH DRAFT TO BE CONSIDERABLY DEFICIENT IN THAT IT FAILED, IN PARTS III AND IV, TO PROVIDE A COHERENT DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT RANGING BEYOND INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS IN MC161/73. HE SAID UK PLANNED TO AVOID GETTING BOGGED DOWN IN DETAILED REVISION OF DUTCH DRAFT, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE READ BY HIGHER LEVEL AUTHORITIES BECAUSE OF ITS LENGTH. HE SAID UK PROPOSED TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON EARLY PREPARATION OF A FIRST DRAFT COVERING REPORT, AND, IN THAT CONTEXT, SEEK TO DEVELOP A MORE COHERENT DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT (SEE PARA. 4 BELOW). U.S. REP AGREED WITH MERIT OF UK APPROACH, NOTING HOWEVER THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO REPAIR SOME OF THE MORE GLARING DEFICIENCIES IN DUTCH DRAFT. UK REP AGREED. U.S. AND UK REPS WERE GUIDED BY THIS APPROACH IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS OF DUTCH DRAFT. FRG REPS FOLLOWED SIMILAR APPROACH. END COMMENT.

3. IN DISCUSSION OF PART II OF DUTCH DRAFT, U.S. REP SAID, PER GUIDANCE IN PARA. 4, REF (A), THAT U.S. MAY BE ABLE TO AGREE TO COMPROMISE PROPOSED BY CANADA ON HOW TO HANDLE CURRENT NATO INTELLIGENCE VIEWS (REPORTED IN REF (B)), ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO REVIEW A DRAFT OF WHAT CANADIANS HAD IN MIND CONCERNING "CONCLUSIONS" ON MC 161 BEFORE DECIDING. CANADA THEN TABLED A DRAFT (POUCHED). OTHER STUDY GROUP MEMBERS,
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INCLUDING U.S., UNANIMOUSLY AGREED THAT CANADIAN DRAFT WAS UNACCEPTABLE BECAUSE OF ITS HIGHLY INTERPRETIVE NATURE. UK ARGUED STRONGLY THAT AGREED INTELLIGENCE ASSESMENTS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN STUDY IN THE FORM OF DIRECT EXTRACTS FROM MC 161/73 SINCE THOROUGH COORDINATION WITHIN NATO REFLECTED IN THAT DOCUMENT. CANADIAN REPS ACKNOWLEDGED DIFFICULTY OF STRAYING FROM THE EXACT LANGUAGE IN MC 161 IN SEEKING TO PRESENT AGREED NATO INTELLIGENCE VIEWS. THEY CONCLUDED THAT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEM BY ADDING ADDITIONAL EXTRACTS FROM MC 161 TO THOSE INCORPORATED IN DUTCH DRAFT OF PART II. THEY UNDERTOOK TO PROVIDE SUGGESTED ADDITIONS FROM MC 161 TO DUTCH FOR INCLUSION IN REVISED DRAFT OF STUDY. U.S. REP SAID HE BELIEVED HIS AUTHORITIES COULD AGREE WITH THIS

APPROACH.

4. LAST PART OF MEETING DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE WAYS OF PREPARING CONCLUDING PART OF STUDY WHICH WOULD CONTAIN A SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS AND POSSIBLE CONCLUSIONS. UK SUGGESTED THAT A SMALL SUB-GROUP BE FORMED TO DRAFT A CONCLUDING SECTION, OR COVERING REPORT, WHICH COULD THEN BE CIRCULATED TO STUDY GROUP FOR REVIEW. STUDY GROUP AGREED TO THIS APPROACH AND ACCEPTED OFFER OF U.S., UK, AND FRG TO UNDERTAKE TASK. UK VOLUNTEERED TO PREPARE AN INITIAL DRAFT WHICH THEY PROPOSE TO REVIEW WITH REPS FROM U.S. AND FRG NATO MISSIONS AROUND MID-DECEMBER IN BRUSSELS. UK CIRCULATED A DRAFT PAPER (POUCHED WHICH SETS FORTH VIEWS WHICH UK BELIEVES SHOULD BE REFLECTED IN COVERING REPORT.

5. STUDY GROUP AGREED TO HOLD NEXT, AND PROBABLY FINAL, MEETING ON 12-13 FEBRUARY IN BRUSSELS. CHAIRMAN (BGEN ROS) HOPES TO CIRCULATE FINAL VERSION OF STUDY TO NPG COUNTRIES BY 1 MARCH 1974. RUMSFELD

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